

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Noboru TANIGUCHI  
Docket No.: 10873.812USC1  
Filed: August 27, 2003  
Title: HYDROCARBON SENSOR AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING THE  
SAME

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10:

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EV 322887679 US  
Date of Deposit: August 27, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop CONTINUATION PATENT APPLICATION, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

By:   
Name: Teresa Anderson

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Mail Stop CONTINUATION PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, which is not an application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d). Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is not provided because it was previously cited by or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in parent application, U.S. Serial No. 09/976,196 filed on October 11, 2001.

A concise explanation of the relevance of each non-English language document or other information is as follows (37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)):

Japanese reference 11-337518 corresponds with U.S. 6,238,535 and EP 949 505.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

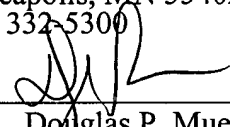
Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

Dated: August 27, 2003

By:   
Douglas P. Mueller  
Reg. No. 30,300

DPM/jh

<b>FORM 1449*</b> <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>  <b>IN AN APPLICATION</b>  (Use several sheets if necessary)	Docket Number: 10873.812USC1	Application Number: 09/976,196
	Applicant: Noboru TANIGUCHI	
	Filing Date: October 11, 2001	Group Art Unit: 1753

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	6,238,535	05.2001	Taniguchi et al.			
	2001/0010290	08.2001	Taniguchi			
	5,935,398	08.1999	Taniguchi et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	10-300718	11.1998	Japan			Abstract	
	11-337518	12.1999	Japan			See IDS	
	949 505	10.1999	EPO				
	1 041 380	10.2000	EPO				
	2000-146902	05.2000	Japan			Abstract	
	10-48175	02.1998	Japan			Abstract	
	57-28248	02.1982	Japan			Abstract	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		


**23552**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.	